

LANGUAGE	TITLE AND GENRE	AUTHOR
Oriya	GARBHAGRIHA (Poetry)	Haraprasad Das
Punjabi	GAWACHE ARTH (Novel)	Niranjan Tasneem
Rajasthani	SEER RO GHAR (Poetry)	Vashu Acharya
Sanskrit	TADEVA GANGANAM SAIVA DHARA (Poetry)	Srinivas Rath
Sindhi	BARF JO THAHYAL (Poetry)	Vasdev Mohi
Tamil	AALAPANAI (Poetry)	Abdul Rahman
Telugu	KATHA SILPAM (Essays)	Vallampati Venkata Subbaiah
Urdu	AAS (Poetry)	Bashir Badr
Kashmiri	VAHRAT (Poetry)	Ab. Rashid Nazki

Memorandum submitted by All India Regional Rural Bank Employees Association

*230. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Regional Rural Bank Employees' Association has submitted a memorandum to Government demanding retirement benefits like sponsored banks apart from other demands seeking pay parity and other service conditions etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHEPATIL):

(a) to (c) The All India Regional Rural bank Employees' Association has been submitting various Memoranda making several demands. A Memorandum dated 15.02.2000 was received making the following demands:

- (i) Restoration of pay parity as per Tribunal Award in RRBs;
- (ii) Immediate promotion from all cadres and lifting of ban on recruitment at least for the promotional vacancy for the time being;
- (iii) Formation of National Rural Bank;
- (iv) Retirement benefit like Sponsor Banks.

The reaction of the Government on the above demands is as below:—

- (i) The matter is sub-judice.
- (ii) The Government has notified Regional Rural Banks (Appointment and promotion of Officers and other employees) Rules, 1998 on 29th July, 1998 and has lifted the ban on promotion vide order dated 15th June, 1999. The ban on new recruitment has not been lifted due to the precarious financial condition of the Regional Rural Banks.
- (iii) After considering a number of alternative models, it was decided to revamp Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) on a "Stand alone" basis by way of infusion of additional capital for cleansing of balance sheets of selected RRBs rather than by creating National Rural Bank of India.
- (iv) As regards the retirement benefits, the gratuity scheme for RRB employees is already at par with their respective sponsor banks. The RRB employees are also covered under the Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 for Provident Fund purposes. However, due to their precarious financial condition, RRBs are not in a position to provide parity in payment of pension to its employees at par with sponsor banks.

Exports through Sea Routes

***231. DR. DASARINARAYANA RAO:**

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) the exports made through sea routes during 1998-99;
- (b) whether easy access provided by the sea could contribute better in the trade property through sea routes; and
- (c) if so, the measures proposed to tap fully the maritime potential for Indian trade with 33 ports?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH):

(a) Goods weighing 62.54 million tonnes from India were exported through sea ports during the year 1998-99.

(b) and (c) Easy access to the sea provided by the sea ports has contributed